

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



JIM MADAFFER

COUNCILMEMBER
SEVENTH DISTRICT

I am responding to a fax sent to me dated May 11, 2003 regarding the median enhancement projects on Montezuma Road and Del Cerro Boulevard.

Montezuma Road Medians

On July 6, 2000, Governor Davis approved a plan that provided funds for transportation projects statewide. The City Council referred the allocation of these funds to Land Use and Housing Committee (LU&H). The City of San Diego's share of this money was \$9.1 million. On July 19, 2000 the LU&H committee allocated these funds for various community projects throughout the City, including the Montezuma Road Median project. These funds can only be used for transportation projects.

The Montezuma Road median enhancement is more than just "trees in the ground." It also entails additional landscaping and replacing the current asphalt medians with decorative stamped concrete that will help beautify the community. It has received broad support from community members that live in the College Area, including your local community council, the College Area Community Council (CACC).

You should also know that the CACC is also a partner in maintaining these medians. How? In the early 1990's the design and construction of the San Diego State University Student Activity Center and Cox Arena raised concerns within the College Area Community. In response to the concerns, the College Area Community Council, San Diego State University (SDSU), and the City of San Diego signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1995 which defined the various steps SDSU would take to mitigate the negative impact of these new facilities within the surrounding areas. One of the provisions in the agreement required SDSU to set aside \$1 per ticket from all large commercial events held at Cox Arena in an interest-bearing account for the CACC to designate for capital improvements and maintenance expenses in the College Area Community.

In September 2000, the CACC voted to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the \$1.00 per ticket fund established at SDSU to a City of San Diego interest bearing account for the purpose of providing maintenance and water for the Montezuma Road Median project.

Del Cerro Medians

As part of the FY 2003 budget deliberations last year, the Mayor and each Councilmember were allocated transportation monies to fund community projects. The Mayor and I contributed from our allocation to help fund this community project. This project involves replacing the asphalt with decorative stamped concrete on College Avenue from just north of I-8 to Camino Rico including Del Cerro Boulevard. A new Del Cerro community sign is also part of the project. As with the Montezuma medians, this project has tremendous community support. As a matter of fact, there were over 50 people in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Libraries

The Mayor asked me to partner with him on goal #7-Build a Library System. In November 2002, the City Council approved a plan that will expand or build 23 branch libraries and build a new central library. I should point out that one of the libraries that will be built is the College Rolando library. This branch will replace the current library on College Avenue and be over 15,000 square feet in size. Construction should be underway by the end of this year. The library is being funded by Council District Seven Community Developed Block Grants (CDBG) funds allocated annually to each Council District. These can only be used for "brick and mortar" projects.

Regarding the closing of libraries on Sunday, I could not agree with you more. On Monday, May 12, 2003 the City Manager presented the FY 2004 proposed library department budget to the City Council. Our City Charter stipulates that the City Manager is tasked with proposing the annual budget. The City Manager proposed closing all branches, except the Main and Mission Valley branch, on Sundays. This is why I sent a memo to the City Manager requesting that he provide the City Council the fiscal impacts if the City were to establish at least one branch per Council district with Sunday hours for FY 2004. Although I do support Sunday hours at all of our libraries, the City's current fiscal crisis will force the Mayor and City Council to make tough decisions in the coming weeks and months.

In conclusion, these median projects do not have any impact on our libraries. These are separate projects that are being funded by separate funding sources that do not involve General Fund expenses.

Sincerely,


Jim Madaffer
Councilmember